Bringing You the Bear Facts

THE CLARION

From the Media Center

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Features Out with the Old, In with the New

by Kayla Kaplan

Come the new school year, we change. We change our schedules to accommodate the hectic life of an EBHS student, we change our alarm clocks to wake us up earlier, and sometimes we even change our appearances. This year, school is changing with us.

As far as athletics go, the school is making major improvements. The gymnasium, for one, is making swift progress. Among many other accomplishments, the old flooring has been uprooted and the underside has been powerwashed in anticipation of the new floor. Due for completion sometime during second quarter, the new gym will allow students to finish out first semester strongly. "I think it's great that we're taking on such a big project. It's really awesome that by the end of this year, I'll be able to utilize the new facilities," says senior Dawson March. March, like many of his classmates, has spent much time in the EBHS gym over the last two years and is anxiously anticipating the new area.

Aside from the gym, the new tennis courts were completed over the summer. Located down the hill by the soccer fields, the courts are green, outlined by white sidelines and surrounded by black windscreens embellished with our very own EB logo. Mr. Yannazzo, Director of Athletics, oversaw much of the process. "The courts are state-of-the-art and look great with the new windscreens,"

Jeffrey Chen

The gymnasium is being completely overhauled here at EBHS -- see the progress so far.

he says regarding the renovation. "They have a lining underneath them to hide imperfections from the asphalt. They will last a long time and serve our teams and the community well."

Not only do the new courts support yet another element of athletics in our already- competitive school, but they also allow the tennis teams to practice on their home turf. The girls' and boys' teams, which both lacked courts for previous seasons, are ecstatic to finally have their own courts at EBHS. Sriya Nuguri, a singles player for the girls' team, said that "last year was such a struggle because the team had to travel for both practice and matches. This year the courts are great to play on and so convenient. We're excited to have a great season on these courts."

Other than athletics, EBHS introduced a new and improved cafeteria! New tables and chairs were introduced at the beginning of this school year, allowing students to relax comfortably while re-energizing in between classes. In addition, the school added charging stations and even retiled the floor in time for the 2015-2016 school year, keeping the cafeteria productive and neat for its students.

"We just have to be patient and work together to make this work," says Mr. Yannazzo about the school renovations. "Everyone is going to be very happy."

Falling in Love with Fashion

Entertainment

by Amelia Murray-Cooper and Subhadha Kartik

A revolutionary idea: you can look cute and still be comfortable this season. No, really. This year at East Brunswick High School, we challenge you to reserve your sweats for gym class and venture off into a new world of patterns, prints, and textures. With Fashion Week behind us and school back in session, we're taking advice from the runway's hottest designers as well as East Brunswick High School staff and students to give you the 411 on all things fall fashion.

Prepare yourself for the chilly weather and become a layer slayer. A trusty cardigan, snuggly scarf, and knit sweater are essentials this season. Mixing proportions can add versatility to your everyday attire, so venture outside of your comfort zone with high-waisted bottoms and forearm length tops. Italian teacher Ms. Maglia personally prefers "ponchos, denim jackets, and stacking lots of big rings." When the temperature starts to drop, achieve a high fashion feel with floor sweeper length pea coats or faux fur.

Ladies, try gravitating towards natural earthy shades and, when in doubt, turn to the falling leaves for pallet inspiration. Rich burgundy and deep pumpkin send out strong seasonal vibes, whereas stormy blue hues create a mellow mood. Sophomore Jessica Saccenti says she loves "mixing in a sweater when it's cool and playing with layers, especially in dark red tones."

For the guys, the runways report that muted colors and shades of gray will make you hotter than Drake's latest mix tape. According to sophomore Ray Valenzuela, "autumn definitely gives guys a pretty large spectrum of styles to choose from. Sweaters, skinny jeans, and casual shoes are the staple clothes of this season."

Images Courtesy of (from left to right, top to bottom): *Pinterest, Aliexpress, Rebloggy, Denimology*

This infographic is brought to you by a survey of 55 EBHS students conducted by writer Priya Jain. Their opinions reflect some of the trends in this year's fall fashion for girls. Using this information, feel free to mix, match and style as you wish! Stay tuned for more surveys and infographics from The Clarion*!*

Instead of following the whole "out with the old and in with the new" mindset, we are getting our groove back and pulling inspiration from the stylish seventies. Stay on the lookout for anything suede or fringed, plus dig through your parent's old clothes and see what gems are just waiting to see the light of day again. Flared denim jeans, jumpsuits, and fitted ribbed tops are making a comeback, and according to East Brunswick High School secretary Mrs. Martin, "maxi-length dresses and skirts are back in style" as well. Play with plaid skirts for a preppy retro feel, or keep the print casual with your favorite oversized button down. Either way, you'll look groovy, baby!

Not a fan of this season's pumpkin spice lattes? No worries! Instead of caffeine, rely on a cute new pair of shoes to put some pep in your step. Match a pair of ankle booties with jeans for an everyday style or strike a pose in a dress and over-the-knee or thigh high boots. Fellas, try out an old school look with a bright shade of retro sneakers or stay fly with a sporty spice style. Always keep warm and step up your footwear game with a fun pair of socks, but no matter what's on your feet, don't forget to kick butt this fall season.

Fall fashion can be summed up in one word: flawless. It is guaranteed that you can look like Amy Poehler at the Emmys or Beyoncé at the Grammys and still be fall-ready. No matter what you are wearing, remember to stay true to your personal style and rock every outfit with confidence.

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Letter from the Editors-in-Chief
A Poem

by Kushal Dev

IT TOOK ME A WHILE TO FINALLY REALIZE
THAT THE LEAVES ARE CHANGING,
SHEDDING MAQUILLAGE AFTER
MONTHS OF SWEATING IN THE SUN.

I WAS STUCK BEHIND WINDOWS,
WHOSE FACES WERE ALSO HIDDEN
UNDER LAYERS OF BLINDS AND CURTAINS
AND SILKY FABRICS DRAPING LENGTHY CORRIDORS.

I'M ALWAYS IN THE DARK,
BUT I STILL WAIT FOR THE SUNRISE.
THE CREAMY ORANGE HUES OF MORNING LIGHT
TELL ME THAT HOPE STILL LINGERS IN THE AIR.

***The Clarion* December Issue Interest Meeting will be on November 19th in the Media Center. All are Welcome!**

NEW AP CLASSES?

the Avocado that'll be extra

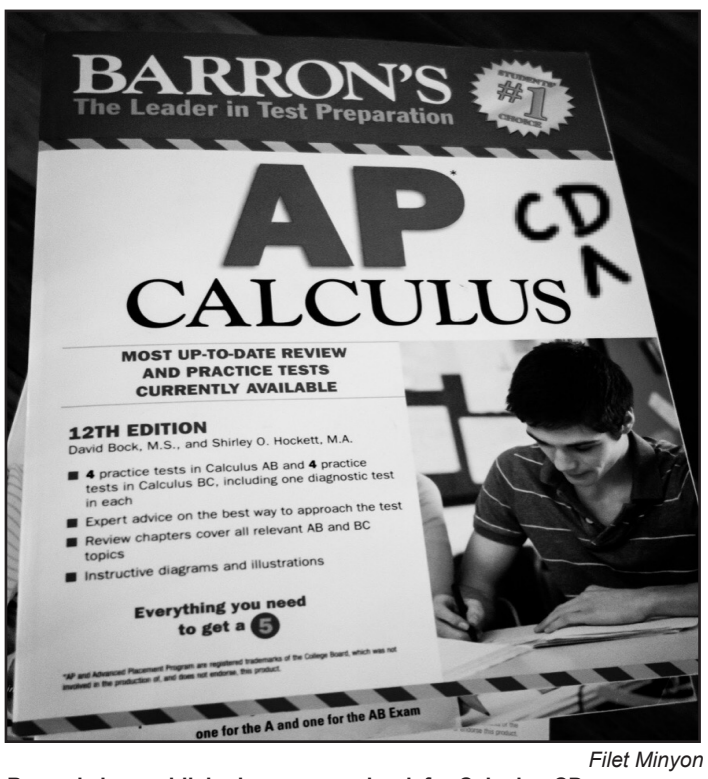
Image Courtesy of Clip Art Hut

by Frank "the dank" Barberman and Filet Minyon

*** *The Avocado* is a satirical news column now featured in *The Clarion*. None of the information below is factually correct.**

With a recent leak of information from the CollegeBoard, EBHS reporters Frank "the dank" Barberman and Filet Minyon have secured breaking news of new AP classes to be offered the next year. Advanced Placement (AP) classes provide high school students to take college-level courses while still in the environment of their high school, and have been growing in popularity ever since their emergence. Next year, the CollegeBoard will be offering 3 new AP classes to be loved and relished by students around the world: AP Calculus CD, AP Internet, and AP Driver's Education.

Although there are already two AP Calculus courses available, one in only Calculus I (AB) and one that covers both Calculus I and II (BC), students often exhaust the limits of AP Calculus by their junior, or sometimes even sophomore years. To ensure that this limit will not exist, the CollegeBoard has instituted an AP Calculus CD course which will cover all topics in Calculus III and beyond. Fortunately, a bright new teacher has stepped up to teach this daunting course. Dr. Deborah Nutz, an esteemed college professor, has given up her teaching position at the University of Phoenix to educate EBHS students in Calculus CD. Concerning the course, D. Nutz says, "I am very excited to teach CD at EBHS. All of my ancestors have educated students on the topics of CD, and I am very honored to be the first Nutz to teach a CollegeBoard-endorsed AP Calculus CD class." We look forward to D. Nutz's teaching magic and her students' performance on the new AP exam.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Review chapters cover all relevant AB and BC topics
Instructive diagrams and illustrations
Everything you need to get a 5
one for the A and one for the AB Exam

Filet Minyon

Barron's has published a new prep book for Calculus CD.

AP Internet, another new AP class, is creating a real buzz on the World Wide Web. In this day and age, the internet is, without a doubt, the most readily available form of entertainment. Many survive off earnings from internet entertainment, and the CollegeBoard has finally realized the importance of education in internet entertainment. Although the CollegeBoard has yet to release official information on the course, rumors say that the course will focus on the creation of so-called "dank memes" and "dank videos" on YouTube. "Dank", a slang word commonly attributed to the Reddit community, is an adjective that expresses that something is of high quality. The "dankness" of a meme is, by nature, highly subjective, and the CollegeBoard is still deciding on a proper framework for grading of AP Internet examinations.

While sophomores usually take Driver's Ed for one quarter, juniors and seniors will now be able to take AP Driver's Education! AP Driver's Education will futher students' knowledge of the road such as knowing the amount of time it takes for each traffic light to switch and the width of each road. Knowing all these meticulous details will have a 100% guarantee of being accident-free when driving. In addition, AP Driver's Education will test students on real life driving stimulations such as driving through any body of water. Since Driver's Ed only taught students how to identify each road sign, students in AP Driver's Education will have to know how to recreate each road sign from memory to ensure the correct interpretation of all signs so that drivers will be well-educated on the roads.

AP Calculus CD, AP Internet, and AP Driver's Education are some tough AP courses that are taking education to the next level.

Sports

Volleying for Success

by Sara Park

This fall season, look out for the girls' volleyball team as they put their hearts out on the courts with no shame. They are more dedicated, spirited, and genuine than any other team you have ever seen. The team is led by Coach Christian Portera and seniors Brooke Kusmider, Jennifer Marx, Annalie Vazquez, Verinda Sood, Sydney Contrino, Rebecca Stanislawczyk, Jackie Zimmerman, Kelly Winch (Manager), and Kate Pesci (Manager).

With their hard work, focus, and devoted mentalities, the girls volleyball team has the potential to knock out any team that they choose to face. The girls are striving to make it to the Greater Middlesex County (GMC) tournament and shine. These girls practice for two and a half hours every day after school to perfect their skills. They condition at every practice, disciplining themselves to become stronger and quicker. The girls also run almost as much as the track team in order to keep themselves in prime shape. Jackie Zimmerman, a senior and captain on the team says: "I strongly believe that our team will make a strong appearance in the GMC tournament. There are things that we want to improve on each game like communication and reducing unforced errors." With their unmatched work ethic and determination, they can surely be counted on to do well at GMCs.

Of course, the team also knows how to have some fun! The team is known for their enthusiasm on Spirit Days. Some of the team's favorites include Blackout, Pajama Day, Color Wars and Dress-Up. Brooke Kusmider, an East Brunswick High School senior player, says: "All of the upperclassmen go all out by painting our faces and wearing ridiculous clothes to school." Whenever you see someone with their face painted or wearing a crazy outfit, be sure to ask why. Senior and captain Jackie Zimmerman explains, "Spirit days give us the opportunity to say that we're volleyball players and to encourage our peers to come out and support us!" Their games surely aren't ones to miss.

Another thing that is really special about this group of girls is their sincerity. Not only are they genuine in their work ethic and in the way they leave their hearts out on the floor in each and every game and practice, but they are also true in the relationships they have formed with each other. Brooke Kusmider, an EBHS Senior player, expresses the development of their close friendships: "We've gone through so much drama and tears over the years that now we've seen everything. We're really close now and we have many inside jokes which carried on over the years." After receiving congratulatory words on the development of their team bonding, she chuckled and added, "Yeah, it only took us about four years." Their tight team bond allows them to be extremely supportive of each other on the playing court- and it shows during their games. Senior Verinda Sood says, "Picking up each other on the court is very important; we often yell at each other to "shake it off" - "it" being a mistake that one of us made - because it's easy to let one mistake affect the whole game. We support each other to shake the mistake off and work hard to earn the next point." With this mentality, the girls volleyball team can definitely step up to any challenge. Jackie Zimmerman would like to say: "The past four years have been incredible and I'm so happy I got the opportunity to play the sport I love with some of my closest friends. I can't wait to see what the future holds for East Brunswick volleyball." Jackie, we couldn't agree more.

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Subadha Kartik

The Girls' Volleyball team hands you a volleyball with confidence and swagger.

Opinions

Dislike Button Dissent

by Janice Ryu

Every social media network has something that sets it apart from others. For instance, in Snapchat, it's the spontaneity of sent pictures and short video clips; in Instagram, its plethora of picture taking opportunities with custom filters; in Tumblr, its entertaining gifs and large community. Setting aside all other social networks however, much controversy has been found pertaining to Facebook's Mark Zuckerburg's decision to start work on adding a Dislike Button to Facebook.

Even users unfamiliar to Facebook know about its notorious Like Button, which is used to express approval on pictures, statuses, inspirational quotes, etc. Facebook users also know that the Like Button is a large part of what your personal image on your profile ends up looking like to other users, with things that you've liked popping up temporarily on friends,' family members,' and other acquaintances' walls. The Like Button is essentially a way to subtlety convey, "I support this! I like this! I sympathize with this!"

This is why Mark Zuckerburg's idea to add the Dislike Button is a very radical move. While Facebook is neither the first or the last Intersnet dependent company that employs a Dislike Button, adding a Dislike Button to the mix of quotes, posts, statuses, and photos that Facebook users have grown accustomed to and have often grown to love could potentially change a lot of qualities of Facebook as we know it.

Many teens like Saba Sarwar are against it, saying that, "I don't use Facebook often, but the idea of the Dislike Button is probably one way to bring down a person's self-esteem. By clicking that button, you are giving people the idea that their pictures, or they themselves, are not good enough." Similarly, Jillian Diamond stated simply that, "The Dislike Button is going to start so many fights, I can just tell." However, some individuals do not have as negative of an opinion on the Dislike Button, such as Apeksha Parmar, who voiced her opinion with great enthusiasm. "I don't have Facebook anymore, but when I did, I would have used that button so much! I don't want to fake my opinion, I want to be very honest about what I feel, and the button could have helped me do just that!"

Mark Zuckerburg, on the subject of the Dislike Button explained, "The tool wouldn't be for expressing disdain for posts. Instead, it would be for showing empathy for posts that seem inappropriate to "Like," such as news of natural disasters or loved ones dying." However, many seem to voice the opinion that if misused, it could cause the exact opposite. Ultimately, it is up to the users to decide: is the Facebook Dislike Button beneficial or problematic?

fossbytes.com

Facebook's CEO, Mark Zuckerburg discussing the upcoming Dislike Button.

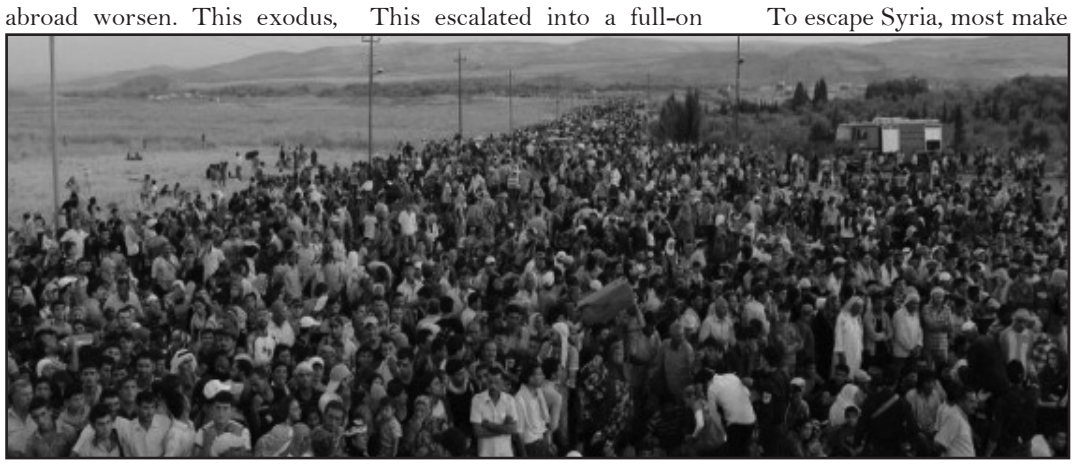
News

THE MELTING POT BOILS OVER

by Tom Lynch

In the last month, shocking revelations concerning the Syrian crisis have entered the public eye as the conditions faced by the four million Syrians seeking asylum abroad worsen. This exodus, only rivaled by that seen in Vietnam following the U.S.' withdrawal in 1975, is the most recent development in the merry-go-round of instability that has shaken the Middle East to its core.

The crisis started in 2011, when security forces under President Bashar Al-Assad opened fire on protesters and began to militarize against their own people. As tensions between government and the general populace grew, violence broke out between budding rebel groups and the authoritarian leadership. This escalated into a full-on civil war involving suicide bombings, massacres, and chemical weapons. Since the summer of 2012, more than 200,000 Syrians have died in the fallout of the conflict between the Free Syrian Army, Syrian Government, and ISIS. However, that number pales in comparison to the nine million Syrians currently displaced both within and outside their home country. For these migrant hopefuls, a long journey through unfriendly territory in cramped conditions awaits before they can reach a safe haven.



Gemstatepatriot

Syrian refugees arrive in Idaho.

To escape Syria, most make towards Turkey, where 2.2 million refugees are currently staying in sprawling tent cities that lack many necessities, including basic power and sufficient rations. From there, refugees board crowded boats to Greece. This is the most dangerous part of the journey, with many ships sinking from leakage and overcrowding; the drowned toddler who washed ashore recently was aboard one of these cantankerous ships headed towards Greek islands such as Kos and Lesbos. Once within the E.U., refugees travel by foot and train through countries such as Serbia and Macedonia towards larger (and safer) countries like Germany which are still accepting new arrivals. However, the road here is still laced with uncertainty as highwaymen, radical right wing groups, and corrupt police threaten them with harassment, robbery, and even death.

Most of the nations in the E.U. have been welcoming towards Syrian refugees. Italy, Germany, and France have all expanded certain programs to accommodate for the influx of people seeking safety. Nonetheless, a controversy has unfolded in some nations. Countries such as Hungary have taken militant stances against the refugees, arresting many and sending others to internal camps where they are denied basic necessities like medical supplies. France's President, Francois Hollande, denounced these actions, stating that "those who don't share [France's pro-refugee] values, those who don't even want to respect [these] principles, need to start asking themselves questions about their place in the European Union."

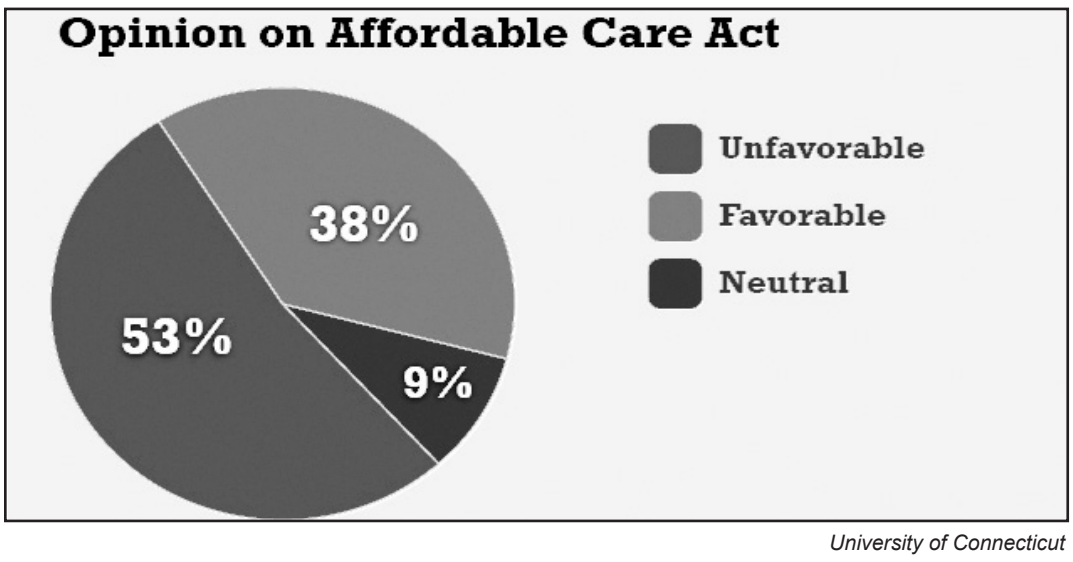
Thankfully, it isn't just the E.U. responding. On the other end of the Earth, Australia has offered to resettle 12,000 Syrians. The United States has taken steps to handling the crisis as well. Stanley He, a Junior here at EBHS remarked, "The Syrian refugees face a hardship that is unthinkable. With a civil war raging in their native nation, it's appalling so many countries are reluctant to provide asylum. We should continue to provide aid to these refugees." Change is possible, but only if we push for it in venues such as educational and economic integration for these refugees. While there might not be an end in sight to the civil wars and terrorism that drive these conflicts, it's in our interest to give aid to the Syrians if we are at all interested in the future of our world.

News

Separating Health from Wealth

by Ian Hou

Over the last five years, the number of uninsured Americans has steadily dropped from 15.7 percent in 2011 to about 11.4 percent today. The reason is simple: "The Affordable Care Act (ACA)", otherwise known as Obamacare, was signed into law on March 23, 2010. In spite of its numerous opponents, including real estate mogul and Republican candidate Donald Trump, the policy has proven to be wildly effective in insuring the American people. Simply put, the ACA requires Americans to maintain their current health insurance plan, and if they lack one, it necessitates that they obtain one or face a fine. For individuals of lower socioeconomic status, the government often offers financial subsidies.



University of Connecticut

Obamacare continues to be unpopular among the majority of Americans.

The American government is now emphasizing the importance of health insurance because many uninsured individuals in past years have faced financial burdens without it. If an uninsured person was injured, but lacked the necessary funds to pay for medical treatment he or she would have been treated regardless. However, that person would then have been in debt. Such cases are a burden on both that individual and on the hospitals involved, and as money is taken away from health service providers, more individuals fall into debt. In addition, according to Junior Vinay Gonugondla, "uninsured people are less likely to go to the doctor when they think they may have a problem." This is due to the aforementioned financial burden they may face since they might not be able to pay for treatment.

The American government has followed up with this risk of financial loss in the healthcare system, as well as the risk of increasing debt, with policies such as the ACA, which requires and motivates individuals to become insured as soon as possible. In fact, on the Healthcare.gov website, the first thing a visitor would see is the large green button that says "SEE IF YOU CAN GET COVERAGE." This is clear evidence that many in Washington believe the obtaining health insurance for individuals is in the interest of our society, and useful in the protection of our people.

From 2014 to 2015, the number of uninsured Americans fell by 6.4%, and according to the ACA's website, the situation will continue to improve. If the trend does indeed hold out, health insurance will reach nearly full coverage by 2020. Consequently, less Americans will be in debt and healthcare systems will function far more cost-efficiently than in years past.

Time Magazine

A media storm reflected American uncertainty about the act.

Features

Club of the Month: Political Club

by Karan Malhotra

As of this year, students at EBHS have introduced a new and innovative organization: East Brunswick Political Club (EPOC)! Pioneered by junior Dennis Cherian, the club provides a place for students who are highly interested in politics to express their views. It was founded with the intention of teaching students about their political environment and holding eye-opening discussions, also providing opportunities for students that will last far beyond a high school or college transcript. EPOC will encourage high school students to go beyond their academic bounds and get involved with hands-on experiences that will impact their understanding of the world.

In this club, students participate in activities that are focused on how they can make a difference in both their school and community. EPOC has a wide variety of opportunities to offer, including debates, competitions, and guest speakers that may fit certain students' political profiles. It may also provide something that many students at EBHS sometimes struggle with — community service. EPOC participates in numerous events even outside the school year, demonstrating the members' commitment to both their club and local politics. So far, these events have included visiting the members of different political parties within East Brunswick, participating in a march on the Fourth of July with both Democratic and Republican parties, meeting and assisting the Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno during the Labor Day Parade, and meeting Senator Sam Thompson.

Despite being a single month into the school year, many students have already expressed an interest in joining the cub. Shetal Oza, a junior and an active member, described her personal experience with EPOC: "My experience as a member has been fantastic because the club is just so new, so I've been fortunate enough to see the inner workings of the club. It makes me more appreciative of club leaders as a whole." Shetal also discussed how this club opened up new opportunities for her after she attended the Labor Day Parade as a member of EPOC: "I met a campaign manager at a rally where I was walking with the Democrats, which was an opportunity I got because of political club. I think it's possible for other people to receive the same amount of exposure if they are willing to put the time into the club."

It is evident that Political Club is not just a means of expressing one's political views, it is also a way to gain unique opportunities. Not only does this club offer an abundance of events and activities, but it is also advised by teachers who embody the concept of political awareness — Mr. Berner and Mr. Saroka. While some students may not be the type to openly express their views (or perhaps they are politically unaware to begin with), these two teachers will definitely teach any club participants a lot about the world around them. EPOC is a space where EBHS students can openly discuss their political viewpoints and reflect on them through civic participation. With each debate, issue, idea and news development, the club is sure to become more and more dedicated to using politics to contribute to the community.

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Dennis Cherian

Political Club members immerse themselves in local politics by supporting local political figures.

Features

Committee in Session: EBMUNC

by Mitchell Rimerman

EBHS is proud to host the second annual East Brunswick Model United Nations Conference, run by our Model United Nations (MUN) team! It will be a one-day conference on October 24th, 2015 from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm at East Brunswick High School, open to all high school students. This mock conference will be a condensed version of a typical four-day MUN conference in order to simulate the true experience of Model UN without having to try out, allowing students to see how a conference would function.

"The East Brunswick Model UN Conference is hoping to provide an accessible one-day experience for many students," says Emmett Laurie, Secretary-General of EBMUN. "We are hoping that the conference will ease the new Model UN students into MUN through the ideas of a true Conference and provide all students a place to compete while still educating them both on Model UN and world issues. Students who are not part of East Brunswick MUN will have this opportunity to learn about how the conferences will operate and those who are already part of EBMUN will have an additional conference as practice."

EBHS students are excited about this opportunity! Zain Baquer, one of the new sophomores to join East Brunswick Model UN said that "the upcoming conference will offer me and many other sophomores a fun opportunity to learn what MUN is about and get prepared for possible future in Model United Nations during our high school careers"

With more opportunities for students to participate in similar conferences, students can gain more knowledge about the world while developing leadership skills, two very important assets for the future. The East Brunswick Model United Nations Conference will not only teach students how a complete conference operates and how the United Nations operates, but it also will give students more information about joining EBMUN. Most importantly, it will provide a fun environment for education about the world.

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Jonah Aguilar

Advisor Mr. Brodman and Secretary-General Emmett Laurie discuss EBMUNC and other Model UN happenings.

Fundraising & Fancy Feet

by Kyra Dimaranan

On October 4, the "Dancing with the EB Stars" fundraiser event was held at Hammarskjold Middle School. English teacher Ms. Domond and Security Officer Mr. Selby teamed up with local dance companies such as Center Stage and First Position to 'strut their stuff' and show off their routines for an evening of highly anticipated fun and entertainment. Stars from all over came to participate — even Z100 Elvis Duran's very own Greg Tyndorf, an EBHS alumni, came to dance! Over twenty-six town celebrities and professional dancers and one hundred volunteers ran around prepping, practicing, and perfecting the show for the waiting crowd. With the theme being "At the Movies" and the routines based off of various classic films, how could you go wrong?

This year, the show raised over $60,000 for the East Brunswick Education Foundation (EBEF). Proceeds from the event go towards supporting the Foundation, which in turn supports local clubs and activities. Founded in 1993 by parents and citizens, much of the work done in the EBEF contributes greatly to EB schools — providing grants, supporting programs, and producing over $2,000,000 through fundraising since its establishment. Coordinated largely by the EBEF with assistance from groups like the EB Youth Council and Tri-M Music Honors Society, the entire "Dancing with the EB Stars" program was backed by the entire community.

"I was so excited to see the immense effort that all of our local celebrities and favorite teachers put into their dances," said junior and EBEF executive board member Simran Bhatia. "The EBEF works to bring the community together through education, and for this one evening we got to have fun with our educators and dedicated residents of East Brunswick. Members of EBEFSA and the parent organization split up tasks and collaborate with each other, making the event run very smoothly." While we may not have stars like Bethany Mota or Bindi Irwin dancing across our stage, the EBEF and the event get a perfect ten!

Sports

NBA PREVIEW

by John Han and Darren Chu

Two weeks. Only two more weeks until the tip-off of the 2015-2016 NBA season. Two weeks that basketball fans will spend on the edge of their seats in anticipation.

The offseason is the most dreaded time of the year. The offseason, where time goes by about as fast as Sim Bhullar on a fastbreak. Whether it is USA basketball, Euroleague, or Summer league, nothing quite compares to the thrill of the NBA season. And this NBA season will have plenty of that! The Golden State Warriors, led by reigning Most Valuable Player MVP Stephen Curry, stormed through all their competition last season. Finishing with a 67-15, Dub Nation trampled over their competition and were the heavy favorites to win the NBA title at the start of the playoffs. In an adrenaline-filled series, the Warriors were able to knock out the Lebron-led Cavaliers and hoist up the Finals trophy,

nj.com

Deandre Jordan decides to stay with the Clippers

as was expected. This season however will tell quite a different story. Mid-level teams were able to beef up and establish themselves as championship contenders during one of the most hectic off-seasons in recent history. There are the Spurs who were able to land one of the most offensively gifted forwards in the whole league in Lamarcus Aldridge. The Clippers, after the Deandre Jordan soap opera, were able to acquire key assets as well. Who could forget about the Cavaliers, who will undoubtedly come into this season with a burning vengeance from their disappointing Finals loss. These are only a small handful of the teams who are now real threats to win it all this NBA season. Get yourself ready for a complete bloodbath especially in the Western Conference.

Individual player accolades are a big question mark this year as well. NBA fans were able to witness what was truly the most suspenseful MVP race in the last decade. Near the end of the season, the MVP race turned into a tug of war match between James Harden and Stephen Curry, with Russell Westbrook making a huge splash as well. This year's race will be no less eventful. There's Kevin Durant returning from a major injury with a villainous fire, and Anthony Davis rising up as one of the league's elite. Sophomore Brad Edwards quotes, "Watch for Chris Paul. He's flying under the radar this year for an MVP candidacy and win." The list of potential winners for this year's MVP award is long and unpredictable. Another race which will prove to be interesting will be the Rookie of the Year award. The competition between the rookies this year is extremely intense making it hard to determine who will eventually win the Rookie of the Year award.

During the NBA Summer League, the rookies were able to showcase their skills with other young NBA stars and several players from the development league. Surprisingly underrated rookie Kristaps Porzingis from Latvia had a phenomenal performance playing for the New York Knicks this summer. In addition, Karl-Anthony Towns also performed magnificently in the Summer League. He averaged 12 points, 7.8 rebounds, 2.0 assists and 1.8 blocks per game. Unfortunately, he only shot 39.6% from the field, bringing out his weakness. D'Angelo Russell shot 37.7% from the field throughout the summer league and had more turnovers than assists. However, with mentors such as Kobe Bryant who also plays shooting guard, Russell will be able to learn a lot of valuable lessons from these veterans.

This NBA season is a season of questions. Will this be the last season of legends, and sure-fire hall of famers Tim Duncan, Dirk Nowitzki, and Kobe Bryant? Will Paul George return as one of the elite small forwards in the league? Do the Warriors have what it takes to repeat? We have a soap opera of an NBA season upon us, and basketball fans around the world are in full anticipation mode. We'll find out in two more weeks.

News

PARTY IN THE USA

by Stephen Zhou

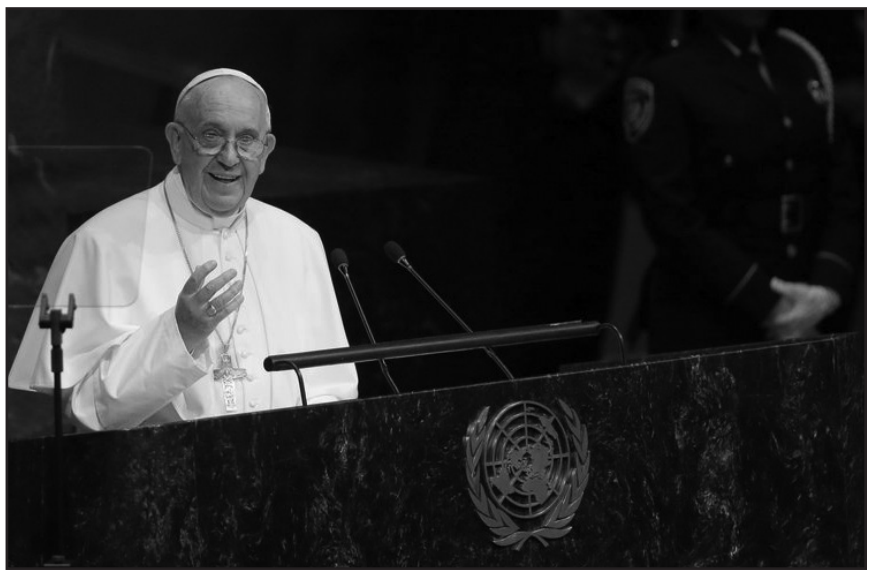
Papal visits to the U.S. have occurred sporadically over the course of several decades. Papal visits, while retaining significance in representing the Catholic community, further provide emphasis in prompting support for the Pope's values. When Pope Francis stepped foot in America on September 22, he was greeted by a vast audience, including the President and Vice President themselves. As he began his six day visit, the Pope not only intended to greet both members and non-members of the Catholic Church alike, but also sought to address issues of priority, including unjust economic systems, the advocating of immigrants, and promoting the protection of the environment. America, being a capitalist country concerning these issues, is thus a prime area for the Holy Father to address these points. Through protesting these subjects, the Pope hopes to produce change for the better, hence his informal title as "the Pope of Change."

The Holy Father does not only intend to cause beneficial change, but also hopes to tend to the declining number of Catholics within the United States. A Pew Survey states, "A report released Tuesday by the Pew Forum finds that the total number of Catholics in the U.S. dropped by 3 million since 2007..." As a result of this declining population of American Catholics, the Pope plans to approach ex-Catholics and convert non-Catholics.

However, Pope Francis is not the only foreign leader to have visited America this September. Arriving in New York on September 24, Raul Castro's arrival marked the first visit by a Cuban president to America since 1995. Coming to America, Castro attended the UN General Assembly, where he listened to a speech by Pope Francis and addressed the General Assembly. Yet, the Cuban President coming to America means more than simply attending the UN General Assembly.

Arriving in the United States, Obama and Castro look to resolve diplomatic relations. In fact, Pope Francis himself had been massively involved in raising attention to reconciliation efforts between the United States and Cuba. The Holy Father had attempted to act as a bridge between the tense nations by assisting in secret interactions between Cuban officials and the Obama administration, eventually resulting in the announcement that reconciliation efforts will be emphasized in order to renew diplomatic relations. Partly due to these efforts, Obama and Castro met personally in April at the Summit of Americas in Panama. This was the first significant meeting between American and Cuban representatives since 1956.

Through the re-establishment of diplomatic relations, a number of previous U.S. sanctions against Cuba may potentially be lifted. For instance, the U.S. has already removed Cuba from the State-Sponsored terrorism list. Efforts of reconciliation could potentially lead to additional lifting of bans, which include the trade and travel embargo against Cuba. Despite travel to Cuba becoming easier over recent years, the travel embargo has not been completely lifted. However, as a result of the renewal of diplomatic relations, travel ban to Cuba could very possibly be completely lifted in the near future. Sophomore Zain Baquer expressed his thoughts in saying, "Although I have never specifically intended to visit Cuba, I believe it is important that freedom to venture to places throughout the world is available". Through the lifting of the travel ban, EBHS students may be able to visit the island nation in the near future! Furthermore, the lifting of the Cuban trade embargo allows for relatively free trade with minimal restrictions. This can further benefit EBHS students by giving them access to a wide range of Cuban products. These monumental changes that have occurred are clear harbingers of the eventual peaceful relations between the United States and Cuba. With the Pope's blessing, Cuba and the United States can have more amicable relations.



npr.org

Pope Francis addresses the UN General Assembly on September 25th

Entertainment An Apple A Day

Image Courtesy of Apple

by Issalina Sagad

"I sat in a garage and invented the future". One of the many dramatic one-liners spoken in a three-minute trailer on

screenrant.com

Lead actor Michael Fassbender, playing the titular Steve Jobs.

a man who doesn't tell lies. Although the trailer says October 23rd, 2015, the year is 1984 when the man unveils his 'future.' Steve Jobs, played by Michael Fassbender, first played his instrument in his garage, eventually creating and conducting a whole orchestra that will spark a revolution of technological and social change. Another star in this movie is Seth Rogen, who plays Steve Wozniak, the other Steve who created Apple. With Rogen as a major character in this movie, the funny factor is sure to shoot through the roof.

From what the two official trailers reveal, Steve Jobs' life wasn't all laughter and smiles. Unlike the computer that said 'hi' and felt warm to the touch upon pushing the power button, Steve Jobs is portrayed in a light that tells the audience that he wasn't as personable as his creation. Sophomore Ashley Suyat commented, "I think it'd be interesting to watch and see what Steve Jobs went through by working with Apple. I also think it'd be both light-hearted and deep as it deals with family issues." The family issues Steve Jobs deals with are as clear and as important to Jobs' life as his inventions. He threw himself into his work, completely disregarding his daughter (who he claims isn't his, and who seems to spend more time on the computer her father made than with her actual parent) and her mother, who has to live on welfare while Jobs enjoys his fame and fortune. "We are about to see if you are Leonardo da Vinci, or just think you do" is said by Rogen's character while talking to Jobs. This may reveal that the co-founder of Apple thought too highly of himself, but then again, if a company that you started in your garage inspired the future of computing technology, you would probably think you were Leonardo da Vinci, too.

The structure of the film itself is interesting, changing from different types of film during the three 'eras' that take place: 16mm, 35mm, and finally high definition quality for 1984, 1988, and 1998 respectively. These eras will take the audience back in time by thirty-one years to the garage of Steve Jobs' home, then to the announcement of the new computer he had made, and finally the introduction of the iMac. From an analytical standpoint, the different types of quality of film throughout the movie can be seen as the different changes within Jobs himself, as well as how his identity became clearer with each 'era,' finishing in the high-definition scenes towards the end.

Steve Jobs's screenwriter is the renowned Aaron Sorkin, who also wrote *The Social Network* (which features EBHS alumnus Jesse Eisenberg; go Bears!). His creativity will show the other side of the man who still creates new technology from the grave, the struggles he faced as a both person and a businessman/inventor, and take audiences through an absolute 'blast from the past.'

by Michelle Brown

Today's digital age has allowed more and more people to break from the regular path to success and pursue internet stardom, in part through the use of the video-sharing website, YouTube. In recent years, users of YouTube ("YouTubers," as they have been called) have been able to make a career out of posting videos online.

Many have been able to use "YouTubing" as a business, because a channel earns a certain sum of money ($0.60 up to $5.00) every time that a viewer watches the advertisement preceding the video. Even after Google takes its 45% cut, these advertisements can quickly add up to larger amounts of money. Sponsored videos are also not uncommon, in which the YouTuber is paid by a certain company to create a specific video or recommend a product, among other possibilities.

Success on YouTube has also allowed a rare few to partner with businesses and create their own merchandise and products. Michelle Phan is perhaps the most famous example of a YouTube entrepreneur. An unconventional rags-to-riches tale, Phan has made millions of dollars through YouTube. She has also garnered millions of subscribers, a position at Lancôme, and the creation of her own makeup line, among other beauty-related businesses — yet it all started with a few simple tutorials filmed in her college dorm. However, just this past year, dozens of popular YouTubers have tackled a different type of media, and released books. As long-time YouTube star Shane Dawson christened it, 2015 is indeed "the year of YouTuber books," what with the publication of Dawson's own *I Hate My Selfie*, Miranda Sings' *Selp-Helf*, Connor Franta's *A Work in Progress*, and far more. Tyler Oakley's *Binge*, which will be published on October 20th of this year, has also caused mass anticipation. In addition to their personal successes, many YouTubers have used their sizable viewings and substantial numbers of subscribers for the benefit of the less fortunate. Oakley, for example, was able to generate tens of thousands of dollars in donations to The Trevor Project, a charity that works towards preventing teenage suicides.

Most YouTubers have some sort of specialty or genre for their channel, whether it be gaming, entertainment/comedy, beauty, etc. The dominating YouTuber in gaming is undoubtedly PewDiePie, whose 39.5 million subscribers far outstrip the number of subscribers of any other channel. In regards to entertainment, Jenna Marbles has been consistently popular since the launch of her channel in 2010, maintaining 15 million subscribers and counting. Miranda Sings, Tyler Oakley, and Lilly Singh are also some of the more popular YouTube entertainers, having been nominated numerous times for Teen Choice Awards and Internet-centric Streamys. Finally, the previously mentioned Michelle Phan remains one of the most popular beauty YouTubers, though Zoe Sugg (Zoella) and Bunny Meyer (Grav3yardgirl) have more recently gained notoriety for their equally popular tutorials and makeup related videos.

Even EBHS has its own YouTube stars, including Ashley Suyat and Christine Kang's channel, Orange Circular. These talented sophomores can be found performing covers of popular songs while simultaneously playing the guitar. Ashley Suyat explained the purpose of their channel: "Christine and I just love making music together — we started making videos more for ourselves to remember memories." She stated that the greatest benefit in filming and uploading videos to their channel is simply spending time as friends. Ashley can find few drawbacks to making videos, aside from the fact that they often have homework to complete on the days they decide to film. Ashley maintains, however, that their channel is always ultimately worth the effort, "just making music and making memories."

Sorry! The Clarion reserves the right to not publish photographs or personal information of its students or faculty on the internet

Michelle Brown

Entertainment

A Night of Firsts: The 67th Emmy Awards

by Divya Parikh and Alisa Wong

Lights, camera, Emmys! On September 20th, 2015, over seven thousand people gathered at the Microsoft Theatre in Los Angeles, California to witness an amalgam of TV's biggest names — also known as the 67th annual Emmy Awards. First presented in 1949, the Emmy is arguably the most prestigious accolade to be given to members of the entertainment industry.

The Primetime Emmy award itself depicts a winged woman holding an atom, symbolizing the uplifting of arts and science of television. An elegant design, the statuette was finalized only after forty-seven failed prior attempts. Each award is made with the utmost care and precision, weighing exactly three pounds five ounces and requiring five hours to produce.

graphic.com

Viola Davis became the first African American to win best acress in a drama series.

In every aspect, the 67th annual Emmy Awards was a night to remember. Without a doubt, HBO's popular drama *Game of Thrones* stole the stage with a record-breaking twelve awards, receiving the crown for best drama series as well. With a budget nearly three times that of a typical network drama series, hovering around $10 million per episode, *Games of Thrones* is HBO's most-watched television show. Diehard fan of the series and EBHS senior David Kim explains, "By having an incredibly suspenseful and compelling plot, critiquing relevant societal issues like racism and sexism, and intimately acquainting us with characters, their histories, and their motivations, *Game of Thrones* appeals to the general audience, making "uncool" subject matter pretty cool — and they have the Emmys to prove it."

But the drama to end all dramas didn't hog the spotlight for too long as Jon Hamm finally won Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series for playing Don Draper on AMC's *Mad Men*, after being nominated for the award for seven years. Recently saying goodbye to the show, Hamm ended his role as Don Draper with a bang. But do not fear — this will not be the last of Jon Hamm, since he will be the voice behind "Don Grouper" on the iconic animated Nickelodeon series, *Spongebob Squarepants*.

However, the ultimate star of the night, Viola Davis, made Emmy history by becoming the first black woman to win an award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama for her role as Annalise Keating on ABC's *How to Get Away with Murder*. Her powerful acceptance speech moved the audience as she quoted Harriet Tubman: "In my mind I see a line. And over that line, I see green fields and lovely flowers and beautiful white women with their arms stretched out to me over that line. But I can't seem to get there no how. I can't seem to get over that line." Since Debbie Allen's 1981 nomination for Fame, only four other black women have been nominated in the category. Annalise Keating, like Viola Davis herself, is a force to be reckoned with. As she becomes entangled in a murder plot with her law students, her brilliance, charisma, and fearlessness leaves her adversaries and audience in awe. Season 2 recently premiered on September 24th to 8.38 million viewers — it is definitely one of TV's biggest trends at the moment.

At the end of every year, EBHS hosts its very own cinematic awards in the form of the annual EB Oscars! Students film their own unique music videos, submitting them for a chance to win an EB Oscar - notoriously the most esteemed merit in all of East Brunswick. Senior Mitali Parikh describes her experience in participating in the EB Oscars: "Filming with friends was definitely an added plus, but it was really cool to see how much talent is hidden in the student body." Whether it's on the big screen or in our very own school, cinematographic talent is everywhere, and it definitely deserves to be recognized and rewarded.

Opinions

Should Social Media be Unblocked at School?

by Nicole Cier

In this day and age, social media should no longer be considered a "distraction," but a supplement to the learning environment and cultural awareness for students at EBHS. With an ever-expanding variety of social media platforms to choose from, creativity and connection have no boundaries. Social media keeps students connected and informed about their changing environment, exposing them to aspects of the world they might not typically encounter.

At any given moment, you are likely to come across an article, video or opinion on an important issue on any social media platform. Twitter is a hotspot for quick sharing of viewpoints on equality, social activism and even the presidential election. The easily accessible access to current events allows students to form their own opinions and support what they believe in. Using phones at lunch and occasionally during class can connect students with similar interests and form new friendships.

Teachers are finding innovative ways to incorporate social media into their lesson plans. "My English teacher always tells us to take out our phones and read the articles she retweets," shares senior Alyssa Marrero. "Using our phones for lessons in school makes them more interactive and engaging." Participating in interactive activities in class encourages students to discuss the topics they feel strongly about, while considering the opinions of their peers.

Brandon Wei

Social media helps keep us all connected.

Platforms such as Instagram and Tumblr provide inspiration through photographs and writing to bring out the more creative, individual side of students. Popular Instagram account @blueeyedbiblio posts book reviews and invites followers to read and discuss their favorite books. While people continue to find new ways to take advantage of social media for sharing their interests, accounts like @blueeyedbiblio are gaining popularity. Each day more social media accounts arise that are solely dedicated to photography, reading, poetry and a myriad of other hobbies.

Why should access to social media — a constant source of information and inspiration — be limited at school? Senior Sara Gilbert believes students should be able to access social media in school because "we should be allowed to know what's going on in the world without outside influence or bias from our teachers and classmates." She also enjoys using websites such as Buzzfeed for study breaks because they "have a lot of articles that range from politics to test-taking tips. The content on Buzzfeed can be educational but also productive."

The influence of social media in school can be useful in the sense that it urges students to unleash their individuality and connect their personal interests to their work. Blocking social media on the school network only deprives students of a more creative outlook of the world as well as exposure to the "real world," preventing them from being able to express themselves and connect to their peers and community.